

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 7/10/2006 and 11/2/2010 are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.
2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Japan on 1/30/2004 and 6/17/2004. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the JP 2004-023795 and JP 2004-180249 applications as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Douglas Hahm (Reg # 44,142) on 9/20/2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

- **Cancel claims 2-5 and 28.**
- **Claim 1.** A content playback apparatus that obtains a content section from content, and plays the obtained content section, the content playback apparatus comprising:
a reference generation unit operable to generate a judgment reference that varies dynamically over a playback time axis of the content; and

a content section obtaining unit operable to obtain the content section by comparing the content with the judgment reference,

the content has a characteristic value that changes dynamically over the playback time axis,

the judgment reference is a threshold value group, and

the content section obtaining unit obtains a different piece of characteristic content from the content each time the characteristic value exceeds a threshold value in the threshold value group, and generates the content section from the at least one obtained piece of characteristic content,

the content is divided into a plurality of segments,

each segment is in correspondence with a different one of the threshold values in the threshold value group, and

the content section obtaining unit compares the characteristic value with the threshold value corresponding to the segment having the characteristic value, and when the characteristic value exceeds the compared threshold value, obtains, as a piece of characteristic content, a piece of content that composes the segment corresponding to the compared threshold value, and after performing the comparison and obtaining operations with respect to each of the segments, generates the content section from the at least one obtained piece of content,

the reference generation unit generates the threshold value group using a threshold value generation function for determining the threshold value with respect to each segment, and

the content section obtaining unit, with respect to each segment, compares the characteristic value with the threshold value determined with respect to the segment using the threshold value generation function,

the threshold value generation function has a property of monotonic increase and/or monotonic decrease on part of a domain with respect to the playback time axis,

the reference generation unit calculates the threshold values in the threshold value group by, with respect to each segment, substituting, as an input value, a playback time of the segment on the playback time axis into the threshold value generation function, and, after performing the calculation operation with respect to each segment, generates the threshold value group from the calculated threshold values, and

the content section obtaining unit compares, with respect to each segment, the characteristic value with the threshold value calculated with respect to the segment using the threshold value generation function.

- **Claim 26.** A content section obtaining method for use by a content playback apparatus that obtains a content section from content, and plays the obtained content section, the content section obtaining method comprising the steps of:
 - generating a judgment reference that varies dynamically over a playback time axis of the content using a reference generation unit; and
 - obtaining the content section by comparing the content with the judgment reference- using a content section obtaining unit;
 - the content has a characteristic value that changes dynamically over the playback time axis,

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the judgment reference is a threshold value group,
obtaining a different piece of characteristic content from the content each time
the characteristic value exceeds a threshold value in the threshold value group
using the content section obtaining unit, and generating the content section from the at
least one obtained piece of characteristic content using the content section obtaining
unit;

the content is divided into a plurality of segments,
each segment is in correspondence with a different one of the threshold values in
the threshold value group, and

comparing the characteristic value with the threshold value corresponding to the
segment having the characteristic value using the content section obtaining unit, and
when the characteristic value exceeds the compared threshold value, obtaining as a
piece of characteristic content, a piece of content that composes the segment
corresponding to the compared threshold value, and after performing the comparison
and obtaining operations with respect to each of the segments, generating the content
section from the at least one obtained piece of content;

generating the threshold value group using a threshold value generation function
for determining the threshold value with respect to each segment using the reference
generation unit, and

with respect to each segment, comparing the characteristic value with the
threshold value determined with respect to the segment using the threshold value
generation function using the content section obtaining unit;

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the threshold value generation function has a property of monotonic increase and/or monotonic decrease on part of a domain with respect to the playback time axis,

calculating the threshold values in the threshold value group by, with respect to each segment, substituting, as an input value, a playback time of the segment on the playback time axis into the threshold value generation function using the reference generation unit, and, after performing the calculation operation with respect to each segment, generating the threshold value group from the calculated threshold values using the reference generation unit, and;

comparing, with respect to each segment, the characteristic value with the threshold value calculated with respect to the segment using the threshold value generation function using the content section obtaining unit.

- **Claim 27.** A non-transitory computer-readable recording medium storing a content section obtaining-use computer program for use by a content playback apparatus that obtains a content section from content, and plays the obtained content section, the computer program comprising the steps of:

generating a judgment reference that varies dynamically over a playback time axis of the content using a reference generation unit; and

obtaining the content section by comparing the content with the judgment reference- using a content section obtaining unit;

the content has a characteristic value that changes dynamically over the playback time axis,

the judgment reference is a threshold value group,

obtaining a different piece of characteristic content from the content each time the characteristic value exceeds a threshold value in the threshold value group using the content section obtaining unit, and generating the content section from the at least one obtained piece of characteristic content using the content section obtaining unit;

the content is divided into a plurality of segments,
each segment is in correspondence with a different one of the threshold values in the threshold value group, and

comparing the characteristic value with the threshold value corresponding to the segment having the characteristic value using the content section obtaining unit, and when the characteristic value exceeds the compared threshold value, obtaining as a piece of characteristic content, a piece of content that composes the segment corresponding to the compared threshold value, and after performing the comparison and obtaining operations with respect to each of the segments, generating the content section from the at least one obtained piece of content;

generating the threshold value group using a threshold value generation function for determining the threshold value with respect to each segment using the reference generation unit, and

with respect to each segment, comparing the characteristic value with the threshold value determined with respect to the segment using the threshold value generation function using the content section obtaining unit;

the threshold value generation function has a property of monotonic increase and/or monotonic decrease on part of a domain with respect to the playback time axis,

calculating the threshold values in the threshold value group by, with respect to each segment, substituting, as an input value, a playback time of the segment on the playback time axis into the threshold value generation function using the reference generation unit, and, after performing the calculation operation with respect to each segment, generating the threshold value group from the calculated threshold values using the reference generation unit, and;

comparing, with respect to each segment, the characteristic value with the threshold value calculated with respect to the segment using the threshold value generation function using the content section obtaining unit.

- In claim 6, page 112, line 5, delete “Claim 5” and replace with --**Claim 1**--.
- In claim 8, page 113, line 10, delete “Claim 5” and replace with --**Claim 1**--.
- In claim 13, page 115, line 2, delete “Claim 5” and replace with --**Claim 1**--.
- In claim 14, page 115, line 12, delete “Claim 5” and replace with --**Claim 1**--.
- In claim 16, page 116, line 11, delete “Claim 5” and replace with --**Claim 1**--.

The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance: **Independent claim 1** recites the uniquely distinct features for “the content has a characteristic value that changes dynamically over the playback time axis, the judgment reference is a threshold value group, and the content section obtaining unit obtains a different piece of characteristic content from the content each time the characteristic value exceeds a

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threshold value in the threshold value group, and generates the content section from the
at least one obtained piece of characteristic content, the content is divided into a
plurality of segments, each segment is in correspondence with a different one of the
threshold values in the threshold value group, and the content section obtaining unit
compares the characteristic value with the threshold value corresponding to the
segment having the characteristic value, and when the characteristic value exceeds the
compared threshold value, obtains, as a piece of characteristic content, a piece of
content that composes the segment corresponding to the compared threshold value,
and after performing the comparison and obtaining operations with respect to each of
the segments, generates the content section from the at least one obtained piece of
content, the reference generation unit generates the threshold value group using a
threshold value generation function for determining the threshold value with respect to
each segment, and the content section obtaining unit, with respect to each segment,
compares the characteristic value with the threshold value determined with respect to
the segment using the threshold value generation function, the threshold value
generation function has a property of monotonic increase and/or monotonic decrease
on part of a domain with respect to the playback time axis, the reference generation unit
calculates the threshold values in the threshold value group by, with respect to each
segment, substituting, as an input value, a playback time of the segment on the
playback time axis into the threshold value generation function, and, after performing
the calculation operation with respect to each segment, generates the threshold value
group from the calculated threshold values, and the content section obtaining unit

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compares, with respect to each segment, the characteristic value with the threshold value calculated with respect to the segment using the threshold value generation function”; Independent claim 26 recites the uniquely distinct features for “the content has a characteristic value that changes dynamically over the playback time axis, the judgment reference is a threshold value group, obtaining a different piece of characteristic content from the content each time the characteristic value exceeds a threshold value in the threshold value group using the content section obtaining unit, and generating the content section from the at least one obtained piece of characteristic content using the content section obtaining unit; the content is divided into a plurality of segments, each segment is in correspondence with a different one of the threshold values in the threshold value group, and comparing the characteristic value with the threshold value corresponding to the segment having the characteristic value using the content section obtaining unit, and when the characteristic value exceeds the compared threshold value, obtaining as a piece of characteristic content, a piece of content that composes the segment corresponding to the compared threshold value, and after performing the comparison and obtaining operations with respect to each of the segments, generating the content section from the at least one obtained piece of content; generating the threshold value group using a threshold value generation function for determining the threshold value with respect to each segment using the reference generation unit, and with respect to each segment, comparing the characteristic value with the threshold value determined with respect to the segment using the threshold value generation function using the content section obtaining unit;

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the threshold value generation function has a property of monotonic increase and/or monotonic decrease on part of a domain with respect to the playback time axis, calculating the threshold values in the threshold value group by, with respect to each segment, substituting, as an input value, a playback time of the segment on the playback time axis into the threshold value generation function using the reference generation unit, and, after performing the calculation operation with respect to each segment, generating the threshold value group from the calculated threshold values using the reference generation unit, and; comparing, with respect to each segment, the characteristic value with the threshold value calculated with respect to the segment using the threshold value generation function using the content section obtaining unit”;

Independent claim 27 recites the uniquely distinct features for “the content has a characteristic value that changes dynamically over the playback time axis, the judgment reference is a threshold value group, obtaining a different piece of characteristic content from the content each time the characteristic value exceeds a threshold value in the threshold value group using the content section obtaining unit, and generating the content section from the at least one obtained piece of characteristic content using the content section obtaining unit; the content is divided into a plurality of segments, each segment is in correspondence with a different one of the threshold values in the threshold value group, and comparing the characteristic value with the threshold value corresponding to the segment having the characteristic value using the content section obtaining unit, and when the characteristic value exceeds the compared threshold value, obtaining as a piece of characteristic content, a piece of content that composes

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the segment corresponding to the compared threshold value, and after performing the comparison and obtaining operations with respect to each of the segments, generating the content section from the at least one obtained piece of content; generating the threshold value group using a threshold value generation function for determining the threshold value with respect to each segment using the reference generation unit, and with respect to each segment, comparing the characteristic value with the threshold value determined with respect to the segment using the threshold value generation function using the content section obtaining unit; the threshold value generation function has a property of monotonic increase and/or monotonic decrease on part of a domain with respect to the playback time axis, calculating the threshold values in the threshold value group by, with respect to each segment, substituting, as an input value, a playback time of the segment on the playback time axis into the threshold value generation function using the reference generation unit, and, after performing the calculation operation with respect to each segment, generating the threshold value group from the calculated threshold values using the reference generation unit, and; comparing, with respect to each segment, the characteristic value with the threshold value calculated with respect to the segment using the threshold value generation function using the content section obtaining unit". The closest prior art in Ratakonda et al. (US 5,995,095), Nagasaka et al. (US 5,974,218), Moriya et al. (US 7,826,709), Miyasato et al. (US 7,433,577), Masumitsu et al. (US 7,971,217), Jun (US 7,082,255) and Crinon (US 6,771,268) teaches of conventional video digest/paragraph systems allowing for the creation/access of video digest by analyzing the video and audio

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streams, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GELEK W. TOPGYAL whose telephone number is (571)272-8891. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am -5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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